



Presbytery of Des Moines

REV. PHILIP W. BARRETT, GENERAL PRESBYTER & STATED CLERK
E-MAIL: PBARRETT@DMPRESBYTERY.ORG

February 6, 2014

CALL TO THE 499th STATED MEETING

The 499th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2015, at the First United Presbyterian Church in Winterset, Iowa. Directions and a map are included in this packet. Parking is available on the streets around the church. The building is handicapped accessible.

As usual, this will be an all-day meeting. It will be a full day of meeting and sharing together. We will be experiencing wonderful worship, hearing reports and taking action on some important items related to the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center, acting on Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of our denomination, and hearing from our Mission Co-Worker to El Salvador, the Rev. Katherine Pater, as well as hearing from other committees and groups.

Please remember that:

→ Registration and coffee fellowship begin at **8:30 a.m.**, and not before. People will be setting up and preparing food prior to that time.

The Presbytery will convene at 9:30 a.m.

The *Proposed Docket* is part of this Call, along with items for information and action. Commissioners should make sure to bring this document with them, as we only have a few extras for visitors. You will need it to be able to read through the packet to make sure you are aware of what is before us during the meeting.

→ We will continue to handle much of our “usual” business in what is called a “consent agenda” process. This means we can handle – in one action – votes to approve or adopt actions or recommendations that do not require debate or conversation. Only items included in the packet will be included in the Consent Agenda. The Proposed Consent Agenda appears following the Proposed Docket in this packet. You will notice that the reports contain a letter designation with parts of them having numbers for easy identification.

At 9:00 a.m. there is an opportunity for orientation to presbytery procedures. This generally is for those attending a meeting for the first time and guests, although any interested persons are welcome. Look for a room sign or ask for directions at the Registration Table.

The activities mentioned early in this letter will make for an interesting and active meeting.

The Minutes of the November 11 Stated Presbytery Meeting were distributed to ministers and commissioners in December. Please be sure to bring these to the meeting. You may download them for

printing by going online to <http://dmpresbytery.org/resources/stated-meetings.html> . Again, extra copies are at a minimum.

Meeting Format: Under our structure and style of operating in our presbytery, meetings do not have business as the central focus and purpose for our gathering. Worship, dialogue and fellowship are primary reasons for meeting. Worship and fellowship will play an especially important part in this particular meeting. There is still business – after all, we cannot be Presbyterians if we do not have business – but most of our meeting time will be more conversational than parliamentary in nature. It will help our meetings to be carried on in this kind of spirit if members and commissioners come expecting such a spirit to be present.

As is our regular practice, the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. All of the items on the docket require presbytery attention or fit in with what we have said we want to happen at our meetings.

- Plans are in place to keep our time together moving quickly so we can be done by midafternoon. We encourage each commissioner and minister member to be present for the entire meeting. Avoidable late arrivals and early leavings are discourteous to those presenting reports and rob other people of the opportunity to share in work and ministry with those not present

We have a time for announcements early in the afternoon. We use this time only for announcements. A time for sharing joys and concerns is part of worship.

Participation Guidelines: Every once in a while, those attending a presbytery meeting ask who may participate in discussions during a meeting. *Guidelines for Participation in Presbytery Meetings*, included in this packet, will hopefully help in answering these questions.

Child Care: Those needing care for their children should call the Winterset Church at 515-462-3261 by noon on Wednesday, February 11 to let them know of your needs. Please bring a bagged meal for your child. Milk will be provided.

A/V Equipment: A projector and screen are available in the Sanctuary. A multi-capacity soundboard and several microphones, both corded and wireless are available. If you need any other equipment, please let the Presbytery Office so we can make arrangements for you.

We continue to have a registration process that requires all attendees to sign in. A Reminder: **Congregations are not excused from having an elder in attendance.** If you plan to bring extra visitors, please call the church to let them know.

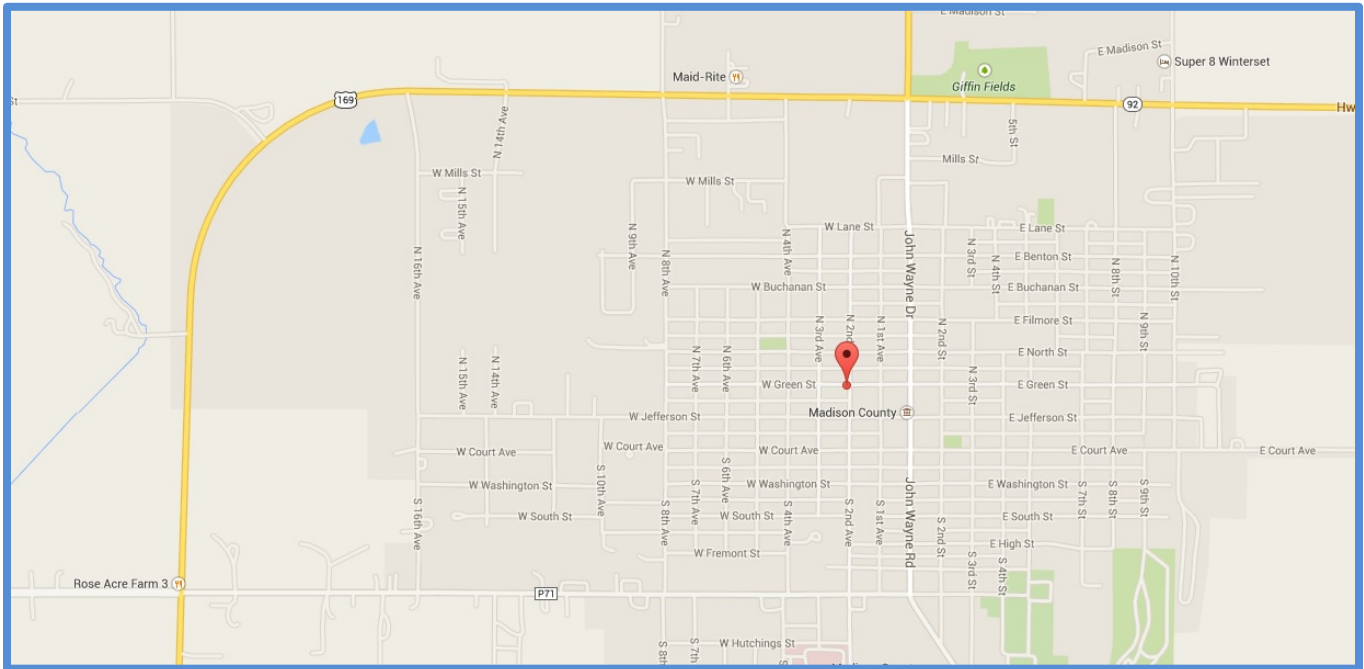
In case of bad weather, call the Presbytery Office (515-276-4991) for information about any changes in time, date or location.

I look forward to this great day with all of you on Saturday, February 14th. That's Valentine's Day, in case any of you may have missed all the ads and commercials about it.



Philip W. Barrett
Stated Clerk

Map to First United Presbyterian Church in Winterset, Iowa:



Driving Directions: First United Presbyterian Church is located at 210 West Green Street, Winterset, Iowa. It is located on the south side of the street.

- When coming from the **west** on Hwy 92, continue on into town on Co. Rd. P71. Take a left (north) onto S. 2nd Ave. and continue on until coming to W. Green St. The church will be on your left.
- When coming from the **east** on Hwy 92, turn left (south) onto John Wayne Dr. Continue into town until you reach W. Green St. Go two blocks and the church will be on your left.
- When coming from the **south** on Hwy 169, take a right (east) at the junction of Hwy 92 onto Co. Rd. P71. Continue on into town and take a left (north) onto S. 2nd Ave. Travel straight until coming to W. Green St. The church will be on your left.
- When coming from the **north** on Hwy 169, when you reach the junction of Hwy 92, continue on straight into town on John Wayne Dr. When you reach W. Green St., take a right (west) and go two blocks. The church will be on the left.

Parking: Angled parking is available on both the north and east sides of the church. Street parking is available once those spots are full.

Building Accessibility: There are accessible entrances on both the north and the east sides of the church.

Entrance: Both the north and east entrances will take you to the registration area. Either one may be used.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

Meetings of our Presbytery are always special because it is a time for the Presbytery family to gather for conversations, business and fellowship. Many different people come to a Presbytery meeting for many different reasons.

When our Presbytery meets, we welcome and encourage participation. There are times, however, that participation is limited. Those times are ordinarily when our Presbytery is conducting its formal business. Because our Presbyterian structure calls for elected Commissioners to determine direction and act on business, only those who are elected Commissioners or are members of our Presbytery are allowed to participate in discussions or voting. Visitors and guests become observers of the process at that time.

At other times in our meetings, each person present is invited to participate in dialogues, conversations, or other activities. Such times include worship, special thematic presentations and small group discussions.

If you are not sure when you may participate in what is happening in the meeting, please talk to the Moderator or Stated Clerk individually.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AT-A-GLANCE

| TO DO THIS | YOU SAY THIS: | MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER? | MUST YOU BE SECONDED? | IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE? | IS THE MOTION AMENDABLE? | WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED? |
|--|---|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Adjourn the meeting | "I move that we adjourn." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Not debatable | Not amendable | Majority vote required |
| Recess the meeting | "I move that we recess until..." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Not debatable | Amendable | Majority vote required |
| Complain about noise, room temp, etc. | "Point of privilege." | May interrupt speaker | No second needed | Not debatable | Not amendable | No vote required ³ |
| Suspend further consideration of something | "I move we table it." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Not Debatable | Not amendable | Majority vote required |
| End debate | "I move the previous question." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Not Debatable | Not amendable | Two-thirds vote required |
| Postpone consideration of something | "I move we postpone this matter until..." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Debatable | Amendable | Majority vote required |
| Have something studied further | "I move we refer this matter to a committee." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Debatable | Amendable | Majority vote required |
| Amend a motion | "I move that this motion be amended by..." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Debatable | Amendable | Majority vote required |
| Introduce business (a primary motion) | "I move that..." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Debatable | Amendable | Majority vote required |
| ¹ The motions or points above are listed in established order or precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below it. But you may introduce another that is listed above it. ² In this case, any resulting motion is debatable. ³ Chair decides | | | | | | |
| Object to procedure or to a personal affront | "Point of order." | May interrupt speaker | No second needed | Not debatable | Not amendable | No vote required, chair decides |
| Request information | "Point of information." | If urgent, may interrupt speaker | No second needed | Not debatable | Not amendable | No vote required |
| Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice vote | "I call for a division." | May not interrupt speaker ² | No second needed | Not debatable | Not amendable | No vote required unless someone objects ³ |
| Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter | "I object to consideration of this question." | May interrupt speaker | No second needed | Not debatable | Not amendable | Two-thirds vote required |
| Take up a matter previously tabled | "I move we take from the table..." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Not debatable | Not amendable | Majority vote required |
| Reconsider something already disposed of | "I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..." | May interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Debatable if original motion is debatable | Not amendable | Majority vote required |
| Consider something out of its scheduled order | "I move we suspend the rules and consider..." | May not interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Not debatable | Not amendable | Two-thirds vote required |
| Vote on a ruling by the chair | "I appeal the chair's decision." | May interrupt speaker | Must be seconded | Debatable | Not amendable | Majority vote required |
| ¹ The motion, points, and proposals listed above have no established order of precedence. Any of them may be introduced at any time – except when the meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed in the above chart (motion to adjourn, motion to recess, point of privilege). ² But division must be called for before another motion is stated. ³ Then majority vote is required. | | | | | | |

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PROPOSED DOCKET**February 14, 2015**

| | | |
|------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Registration Begins Fellowship and Refreshments | |
| 9:00 | Orientation of “First-Timers” | Maurice Dyer |
| 9:30 | Call to Order and Opening Prayer | Shamaine Chambers King |
| 9:45 | Worship | Worship Task Group |
| 10:45 | D – Budget and Finance Committee Report | Kirsten Klepfer |
| 11:00 | B – Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center Covenant Council Report | Louise Gately Jennifer Hines |
| 11:15 | I – Stated Clerk Report Approval of November 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes | Phil Barrett |
| 11:25 | V – CROSS Ministries Report | Roberta Victor |
| 11:30 | E -1 – Bills & Overtures Task Group Report – Part I | Ted Coppock Ann Johnson |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch | |
| 1:00 | Announcements | |
| 1:10 | J – General Presbyter Report | Phil Barrett |
| 1:20 | E-1 – Bills & Overtures Task Group Report – Part II | Ann Johnson Ted Coppock |
| 2:20 | A – Moderators Task Force Report | David Endriss |
| 2:25 | A-4 – Congregational Transition Task Force Report | Joyce Rash |
| 2:30 | A-1 – Church Professional Task Force Report | Mary Lou Aspengren |
| 2:35 | E – Leadership Council Report | Jim Howland |
| 2:40 | K – Compassion, Peace & Justice Task Force Report | Michelle Parsons |
| 2:45 | Other Business | |
| 2:55 | Adjournment and Benediction | |

CONSENT AGENDA

February 14, 2015

A – Congregational Task Forces

A-1 – Church Professional Task Force Report

- A-1-A-3 Received TE Roger Todd and TE Barbara Tooker Todd
- A-1-A-4 Additions to Pulpit Supply List
- A-1-A-5 Changes in TE Ken Stuber Call

- A-1-R-5 Annual Reports Received

A-4 – Congregational Transition Task Force Report

- A-4-A-32 Covenant with TE Bob Cook & Des Moines, Highland Park
- A-4-A-33 Addition to Contract with RE Ramona Wink & Knoxville, First
- A-4-A-34 Church Information Form for Des Moines, Central
- A-4-A-35 Contract with RE Robert Waldron & Earlham, First
- A-4-A-36 Terms of Call with TE Jessica Wietzke & Grimes, First

D – Budget and Finance Committee Report

- D-A-6 Sale of Church Manse at Centerville, First
- D-A-7 Sale of Church Manse at Bedford, United
- D-A-8 Approve Reports
Income & Expense Reports as of December 31, 2014
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2014
Restricted Funds as of December 31, 2014

E – Leadership Council Report

- E-I-12 Formation of new task force
- E-I-13 Search for Worship Co-Moderator & Nominating Committee
- E-I-14 TE Liz Knott Resignation
- E-I-15 Office Elections
- E-I-16 Council Retreat

I – Stated Clerk's Report

- I-I-13 Reports Filed, Correspondence Handled
- I-I-14 TE Dawn Linder Resignation

A-1 – CHURCH PROFESSIONAL TASK FORCE**February 14, 2015**

The Task Force reports receiving two more Annual Status Reports from pastors, so presents the following recommendation to the Presbyter for adoption:

A-1-R-5 That the Revs. Robert Burnett and Calvin Hsu continue to hold the status of Honorably Retired (G-2;0503c).

The Task Force has taken the following actions:

A-1-A-3 Accepted TE Roger Todd and TE Barbara Tooker Todd as members of the Presbytery upon receipt of their transfer from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley.

A-1-A-4 Added the following persons to the Pulpit Supply List:

TE Randy Allman
 TE Elizabeth (Betty) Sandy, HR
 TE Barbara Tooker Todd, HR
 TE Roger Todd, HR

A-1-A-5 Approved changes in the Terms of Call for TE Ken Stuber and the First Presbyterian Church of Des Moines, IA, so they are as follows:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Cash Salary | \$33,412 |
| Auto Allowance | \$480 |
| Continuing Education | \$1,000 |
| Full Pension, Medical, Death and Disability Dues | |

This is a reduction in cash salary that was suggested by Rev. Stuber and approved by the congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Mary Lou Aspengren, moderator

A-4 – CONGREGATIONAL TRANSITION TASK FORCE REPORT

February 14, 2015

The Task Force has taken the following actions since the last Presbytery meeting:

A-4-A-32 Approved the Temporary Pastoral Relationship Covenant between Highland Park Presbyterian Church and TE Robert D. Cook as of November 24, 2014.

The temporary supply will be responsible to:

1. Moderate the Session and congregational meetings.
2. Lead worship and preach at regular Sunday services.
3. Contact sick and homebound members as requested by family or deacons.
4. Officiate at weddings, funerals, and administer Sacraments as agreed with the Session.
5. Work with Session to plan and guide the church's life.
6. Interact with church groups to help them carry out their tasks as pastor time permits;
7. Invite people into the church.
8. Attend Presbytery meetings.

Expectations of Session:

1. Provide counsel and support.
2. Meet with pastor semiannually to discuss/review the TPR.
3. Provide regular financial compensation according to terms agreed upon.
4. Invite people into the church. (congregational people shall invite people as well).
5. Perform duties as ruling Elders in the life and operations of the church, as well as provide spiritual leadership.

Expectations of the Presbytery:

1. Provide support and consultation through Presbytery Staff and the Congregation Transition Task Force.
2. Support the Session and Temporary Supply through the resources of Presbytery committees.

Financial Provisions:

1. \$21,899 salary per year-paid twice monthly on the 15th and last day of the month.
2. Mileage at the IRS approval rate (with an approved form to be filled out and turned in monthly)
3. Continuing Education in the amount of \$1,500 and 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays).
4. Pension in the amount of \$1,200.

Additional Provisions:

1. One week vacation per quarter, to be accrued at the rate of 2 weeks per six months.
2. The temporary supply will provide at least 30 days' notice of continuing education or vacation time.
3. Approximately 20 hours of time per week will be devoted to this position by the temporary supply.
4. This agreement may be terminated by the pastor with 30 days' written notice.

5. This agreement may be terminated by the Session with 30 days' written notice.
6. Unless determined by Presbytery and Session at a later time, the temporary supply is ordinarily not eligible to neither serve as the next installed pastor not to be involved in the search process.

A-4-A-33 Approved an addendum to the position at First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, IA as offered to RE Ramona Wink: (changes are in boldface).

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Full time position | 40 hours per week |
| Salary | \$24,036 |
| Housing allowance | \$18,000 |
| Benefits | As provided by Board of Pensions; Dental insurance. |
| Mileage | Actual (IRS reimbursement rate) |
| Vacation | Four weeks per year |

A-4-A-34 Approved the MIF of Central Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, IA

A-4-A-35 Approved the contract for Temporary Supply Pastor with First Presbyterian Church, Earlham, IA. The following contract between the Session of Earlham First Presbyterian Church and RE Robert Waldron is for the purpose of providing pastoral services as Pastor to the church of a period of 8 months (not to exceed 12 months). The contract is to begin January 25, 2015.

Duties:

The pastor will be responsible to:

- Moderate the Session and congregational meetings
- Serve as Head of Staff
- Lead worship and preach at regular Sunday services
- Call on sick and home-bound
- Provide administrative leadership
- Officiate at weddings and funerals
- Lead new member classes
- Work with committee chairs
- Represent the church in dealing with outside organizations
- Pray for the church

The congregation and Session will be responsible to:

- Support the pastor in his/her ministry
- Provide regular financial compensation according to the terms outlined below
- Provide a performance review to the pastor at least annually
- Pray for the pastor during the contract period
- Negotiate goals for the contract period

This agreement may be terminated by either party (Session or pastor) upon 30 days' written notice. This agreement may be extended in one to 12 month periods, upon written notice to, and the approval of the Presbytery. It is understood that the pastor will participate in any training/discussions sponsored and/or requested by Presbytery and will participate in an exit interview conducted by Presbytery.

Terms:

The pastor is employed on a part-time basis, serving approximately 20-25 hours per week, and will be compensated as follows:

Effective salary- Reimbursable expenses by voucher

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cash salary | \$19,400 annually |
| Automobile expense | included in cash salary listed above |
| Continuing education | \$1,500 and 2 weeks paid |
| Other allowances | \$800 |
| Total | \$21,700 |
| Paid vacation | 5 weeks annually |

A-4-A-36 Approved the terms of call for TE Jessica Weitzke and First Presbyterian Church of Grimes, IA, effective February 1, 2015. They are:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Cash salary | \$31,500 |
| Housing Allowance | \$14,500 |
| Automobile Expenses | \$.56 per mile |
| Continuing Education | \$1,500 |
| Study Leave | 2 weeks |
| Paid vacation | 4 weeks |
| Full Pension, Major Medical, Death and Disability Dues | |
| In seventh year of service a paid Clergy Renewal Leave | |

Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce Rash, moderator

B – COTTAGE GROVE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION CENTER REPORT

February 14, 2015

OVERVIEW:

The Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center continues to take shape in many promising ways, all because of the leadership of many committed volunteers, our Sudanese worshipping groups, the CROSS staff, building professionals and our new custodian, Dan Mowrey. The Mission Center is in a building that is already beginning to show signs of its original and majestic self.

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

The Covenant Council envisions the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center as A WELCOMING, SAFE and SACRED place, providing HELP and HOPE to those in need, space for WORSHIP, and opportunities for COMMUNITY SHARING.

The Council is committed to creating a mission center that will be a vibrant, functional home for two Sudanese worshipping groups, CROSS Ministries, the offices of the Presbytery of Des Moines, and other community organizations that share this vision.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

A massive Clean-Up Day with more than 75 volunteers of all ages descended on Cottage Grove Church, Saturday, Nov. 22, and began its transformation into the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center. The crew represented 11 congregations and, by the end of the day, the facility was clean and ready for its next stage.

Critical maintenance of the Cottage Grove building to ensure the furnace, plumbing and electricity is in working order has been achieved, much to the credit of our new custodian.

An innovative and functional building lay out for the new Mission Center has been drawn up by the architects, reflecting input from the CROSS staff, the Sudanese worshipping groups, the Presbytery staff, and planners for future non-profit tenants (Expect further details at Presbytery)

Our public historian has begun the extensive process to secure State Historic tax credits that will generate 25% of the needed revenue for the planned renovations. In addition, work has begun to place the Cottage Grove building on the historic registry.

The contractor is currently coordinating all cost estimates relating to the renovation plan in order to help establish a feasible financial goal for the fundraising campaign.

NEXT STEPS:

- Finalize the cost estimates for the building renovations, based on the building layout.
- Complete the business plan and case statement in preparation for the fundraising campaign.
- Complete building upgrades necessary to accommodate the Presbytery offices.
- Continue the community networking already begun, as well as identify and approach nonprofits that would be potential tenants for the building.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Hancock, moderator

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

February 14, 2015

The Committee has taken the following actions:

- D-A-6 Granted permission to the First Presbyterian Church of Centerville, IA to sell its manse.
- D-A-7 Granted permission to the United Christian Presbyterian Church of Bedford, IA, to sell its manse.

The committee presents the following recommendations to Presbytery:

- D-R-6 That the Presbytery Office at 2400 86th Street, Suite 20, Urbandale be moved to the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center, 1050 24th Street, Des Moines. Budget and Finance Committee, in consultation with Leadership Council, Personnel Committee, and Cottage Grove Covenant Council, will decide the dates of the move.
- D-R-7 That the Budget and Finance Committee be empowered to list and sell the current Presbytery office at 2400 86th Street, Suite 20, Urbandale, IA.
- D-R-8 That the funds from the sale of the office be used for the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center project, at the discretion of the Cottage Grove Covenant Council.

Rationale:

1. The Cottage Grove Administrative Commission's recommendations regarding the Mission Center were overwhelmingly approved by the Presbytery in June, 2014. The Commission identified as key to the success of the project the moving of the Presbytery offices to the Mission Center at the Cottage Grove church building. Because of this, the Operations Team of the Covenant Council has been working under the assumption that the offices would be moved.
2. The Operations Team of the Mission Center has been working with the architects, contractor and public historian, and continues to consult with the Presbytery staff, to prepare the building to accommodate the Presbytery offices.
3. The Presbytery has declared by its decision to establish a Mission Center in the Cottage Grove building that the Mission Center will be a significant mission of the Presbytery. Moving the offices to that location is a tangible demonstration of the Presbytery's commitment to that building and the mission that is, and will be, carried out there.
4. Housing the Presbytery offices in the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center demonstrates to the larger community its commitment to, and leadership of, this effort. This will be vital in order to enlist the additional financial support that will be needed from beyond the Presbyterian denomination. Outside donors will want to be assured of the Presbytery's commitment before making a contribution.

- D-R-9 That \$100,000 of the Knox Knolls Camping Fund be changed to unrestricted.

Rationale:

1. The recommendations of the Cottage Grove Administrative Commission are meant, in part, to bring the Presbytery to a more financially sustainable position. However, there are significant up-front costs to getting the Mission Center up and running.

2. The Presbytery does not currently have the funds necessary in unrestricted accounts to meet the upfront needs of the project.
3. The Knox Knolls Fund came from the sale of the Knox Knolls Camp and the Presbytery voted on May 15, 1990 that the interest on the investment be used $\frac{3}{4}$ for camping and related uses and $\frac{1}{4}$ for other Presbytery causes. At that time the camping ministry of our Presbytery was significant. While we still have need for this fund, that need has diminished. The \$252,917 that will remain in the fund will be sufficient to support our current level of camping activity.
4. This money will give the Presbytery the flexibility needed to ensure timely completion of the Cottage Grove Mission Center.

D-R-10 That the Covenant Council have the authority to use that \$100,000 as they see fit, with the understanding that once the Presbytery office sells, the \$100,000 will be returned to the Presbytery operating fund.

Rationale:

1. The funds from the sale of the Presbytery offices are part of the financing plan for the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center. The Covenant Council estimates that the Presbytery office will sell for approximately \$100,000.
2. Those funds are needed in the first phase of the project to do necessary work on the building while the fundraising campaign is going on, but the offices may not be sold during that first phase.
3. Presbytery does not meet again until June and the Operational Group and Covenant Council need financial flexibility in the meantime if the project is going to continue without delay.
4. This will have no long-term impact on the operating funds of Presbytery, as funds from the sale of the office will be returned to the Presbytery operating account when the office is sold.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kirsten Klepfer, moderator

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****2014 Income Report
as of December 31, 2014**

| | 2014 End of Year | 2014 Budget |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Income | | |
| 2013 Carryover | \$5,216.05 | \$5,216.05 |
| Total Per Capita | \$272,565.50 | \$265,000.00 |
| Past Year's Per Capita | \$0.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Presbytery General Mission | \$84,437.48 | \$86,948.36 |
| Synod Support Staff Salaries | \$25,000.00 | \$25,000.00 |
| Hunger Action Enabler Income | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Funds | \$13,500.00 | \$13,500.00 |
| Montezuma Funds | \$56,828.82 | \$78,697.88 |
| Camping Interest Available | \$11,472.70 | \$11,472.70 |
| Interest Income | \$136.49 | \$200.00 |
| Miscellaneous Income | \$1,093.87 | \$800.00 |
| Total Income | \$473,250.91 | \$491,834.99 |
| 2014 Expenses | | |
| | \$473,250.91 | \$491,834.99 |
| Surplus(Deficit) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****2014 Expense Report
as of December 31, 2014**

| | 2014 End of Year | 2014 Budget |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Governance Expense | | |
| Committee Preparation Ministry | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Stewardship & Mission Interpretation Committee | \$1,800.00 | \$2,200.00 |
| Permanent Judicial Commission | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| Committee of Representation | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| Budget & Finance Committee | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Nominating Committee | \$0.00 | \$90.00 |
| Personnel Committee | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Sexual Misconduct Response Team | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| General Assembly Per Capita | \$54,082.08 | \$54,082.08 |
| Synod Per Capita | \$38,520.00 | \$38,520.00 |
| Subtotal | \$94,402.08 | \$96,592.08 |
| Administrative Expense | | |
| Moderator Expense/Task Groups | \$150.00 | \$150.00 |
| Administrative Commissions | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| Presbytery Meetings | \$35.49 | \$300.00 |
| Commissioner Orientation | \$54.85 | \$300.00 |
| Stated Clerk Expense | \$100.00 | \$0.00 |
| Insurance | \$4,245.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| Legal fees | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| Subtotal | \$4,585.34 | \$7,750.00 |
| Extension of Ministries | | |
| Compassion Peace & Justice Task Force | \$4,320.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| Hunger Action Enabler Travel & Con Ed | \$1,286.40 | \$1,500.00 |
| Broken Bread & Postage | \$481.02 | \$500.00 |
| Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Funds | \$13,500.00 | \$13,500.00 |
| Cross Ministries | \$50,000.40 | \$50,000.00 |
| Older Adult Ministries Task Force | \$539.15 | \$1,000.00 |
| Camping | \$3,500.00 | \$3,500.00 |
| Youth | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| Resources | \$1,183.08 | \$500.00 |
| Subtotal | \$76,310.05 | \$77,000.00 |
| Support of Local Ministries | | |
| Moderators Task Force | \$29.69 | \$500.00 |
| Congregational Health Task Force | \$1,319.37 | \$1,000.00 |
| Congregational Transition Task Force | \$836.25 | \$1,000.00 |
| Congregational Challenge Task Force | \$340.20 | \$1,000.00 |
| Church Professional Task Force | \$2,418.08 | \$1,000.00 |
| Presbytery Pastors | \$45.75 | \$500.00 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Regional Partnerships</u> | | |
| Southwest | \$3,500.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| South Central | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| DM Two Rivers | \$3,162.28 | \$5,050.00 |
| Leadership Council | \$964.19 | \$700.00 |
| Worship Task Group | \$200.00 | \$60.00 |
| Bills & Overtures | \$0.00 | \$60.00 |
| Emergency Contingency | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| Subtotal | \$12,815.81 | \$17,370.00 |
| Office Expense | | |
| Condo dues | \$2,700.00 | \$2,700.00 |
| Rent-copier lease | \$5,496.09 | \$4,725.00 |
| Office supplies | \$2,767.39 | \$4,725.00 |
| Postage | \$2,127.35 | \$3,150.00 |
| Telephone & Internet | \$3,248.23 | \$6,000.00 |
| Utilities | \$2,077.18 | \$2,100.00 |
| Janitorial Services | \$4,564.41 | \$3,780.00 |
| New Equipment | \$1,278.53 | \$3,000.00 |
| Equipment Maintenance/Tech Services | \$2,195.89 | \$3,000.00 |
| Books & Subscriptions | \$143.95 | \$250.00 |
| Office Travel | \$737.82 | \$1,000.00 |
| Audit | \$7,430.49 | \$7,000.00 |
| Church & Staff Appreciation | \$225.82 | \$200.00 |
| Subtotal | \$34,993.15 | \$41,630.00 |
| Personnel | | |
| General Presbyter Salary | \$75,433.20 | \$75,433.00 |
| General Presbyter Benefits | \$26,401.56 | \$26,401.55 |
| General Presbyter Prof Expense | (\$90.00) | \$600.00 |
| General Presbyter Con Ed | \$550.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| General Presbyter Travel | \$12,486.66 | \$10,000.00 |
| Office Manager Salary | \$39,254.16 | \$39,254.00 |
| Office Manager Benefits | \$14,370.48 | \$13,738.90 |
| Office Manager ConEd | \$685.33 | \$750.00 |
| Office Manager FICA | \$2,909.02 | \$3,003.00 |
| Hunger Action Enabler Salary | \$7,500.00 | \$7,500.00 |
| Hunger Action Enabler Benefits | \$7,488.00 | \$7,488.00 |
| Hunger Action Enabler FICA | \$573.75 | \$574.00 |
| Sudanese Ministry RP Salary | \$23,533.20 | \$23,533.00 |
| Sudanese Ministry RP Benefits | \$12,483.96 | \$12,483.96 |
| Sudanese Ministry RP Con Ed | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| Sudanese Ministry RP Expenses | \$3,092.45 | \$3,000.00 |
| Mission Co-Worker Benefits | \$15,260.00 | \$15,260.00 |
| Communications Coordinator Salary | \$6,069.00 | \$7,800.00 |
| Communications FICA | \$464.28 | \$597.00 |
| Office Helper | \$173.05 | \$1,000.00 |
| Office Helper - FICA | \$6.38 | \$76.50 |
| Subtotal | \$250,144.48 | \$251,492.91 |
| Total Expenses | \$473,250.91 | \$491,834.99 |

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...

Presbytery of Des Moines

**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
as of December 31, 2014**

| | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ASSETS | | LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | Current Liabilities | | | |
| | Cash in Bank | \$67,824.83 | 2342.02 | Presbytery Designated | \$4,545.69 |
| 1112.01 | Savings Account | \$3,850.08 | 2411.01 | Pastor Emergency Fund | \$3,850.02 |
| 1114.08 | Colfax Fund MM | \$3,187.43 | 2510.02 | Special In & Out | \$114.00 |
| 1115.06 | Easter Lake MM | \$62,005.99 | 2525.02 | Sudanese Ministry Resources | \$1,146.73 |
| 1116.01 | Montezuma CD Acct | \$78,904.22 | 2530.02 | Sudanese Undesignated | \$7,876.41 |
| 1117.02 | Walther Fund | \$25,370.46 | 2535.02 | Sudanese Water Project | \$318.75 |
| 1118.06 | Easter Lake Mortgage MM | \$52,534.55 | 2540.02 | Sudanese Designated | \$3,000.00 |
| 1120.06 | Easter Lake DayCare Acct | \$6,666.56 | 2550.02 | CG Pres Mission Center | (\$591.80) |
| 1122.01 | McCahon Fund | \$49,407.70 | 2700.03 | Hunger-Cents-Ability | \$526.14 |
| 1122.02 | Knox Knolls Fund | \$363,361.58 | 2701.03 | Peacemaking | \$2,134.50 |
| 1123.01 | Albia Fund | \$21,980.62 | 2702.03 | Rural Partnership Offering | \$2,083.91 |
| 1126.02 | Life Inc Char Int-Restricted | \$1,029.00 | 2703.03 | Joining Hands Task Force | \$9,635.44 |
| 1132.05 | Swan Fund | \$28,936.05 | 2705.03 | El Sal-Water Filter Project | \$6,256.50 |
| 1133.07 | Pastors Seminar Fund | \$17,809.87 | 2706.03 | El Salvador-Undesignated Funds | \$10,177.14 |
| 1134.08 | Colfax Fund | \$22,152.45 | 2707.03 | El Salvador Designated Funds | \$8,300.00 |
| 1212.06 | Knox Contract Principal | \$753,923.85 | 2708.03 | Compañeros | \$1,314.10 |
| | Total Current Assets | \$1,558,945.24 | 2709.03 | Coffee | (\$1,433.81) |
| | | | 2712.03 | El Salvador Scholarship Fund | \$1,200.00 |
| | | | 2713.03 | Two Rivers Syn School Scholarship | \$550.00 |
| | | | 4871.06 | Easter Lake Mortgage | \$59,197.79 |
| | | | 4872.06 | Easter Lake Daycare Deposit | \$3.32 |
| | | | Total Current Liabilities | | |
| | | | | | \$120,204.83 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | Long-Term Liabilities | | |
| | | | 2114.06 | Real Estate Note Payable | \$203,800.76 |
| | | | Total Long-Term Liabilities | | |
| | | | | | \$203,800.76 |
| | | | Total Liabilities | | |
| | | | | | \$324,005.59 |
| | | | Net Assets | | |
| | | | 3810.06 | Interfund Transfer | \$847.80 |
| | | | 3910.01 | Net Assets | (\$54,768.25) |
| | | | 3910.02 | Net Assets-Program Fund | \$543,061.91 |
| | | | 3910.03 | Net Assets - In & Out Fund | \$5,350.70 |
| | | | 3910.05 | Net Assets - Swan Fund | \$24,800.68 |
| | | | 3910.06 | Net Assets - Commissions | \$946,996.98 |
| | | | 3910.07 | Fund Balance - Endowment Fund | \$17,204.50 |
| | | | 3910.08 | Net Assets-Colfax Fund | \$27,577.32 |
| | | | | Surplus/(Deficit) | \$16,004.78 |
| | | | Total Net Assets | | |
| | | | | | \$1,527,076.42 |
| | | | Total Liabilities & Net Assets | | |
| | | | | | \$1,851,082.01 |
| | | | Other Assets | | |
| | | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | Total Other Assets | | |
| | | | | | \$0.00 |
| | | | Total Assets | | |
| | | | | | \$1,851,082.01 |

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****Restricted Funds
as of December 31, 2014*****New Covenant Funds***

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------|
| McCahon Fund | <i>Annual Income to be used for grants for small churches (under 150) for one-time needs. Unused income to be reinvested each year in the trust.</i> | \$49,407.70 |
| Swan Fund | <i>Interest earnings to be used for seminary students' assistance.</i> | \$28,936.05 |
| Albia/Pitzer Fund | <i>To be used for the assistance of small churches in the Presbytery.</i> | \$21,980.62 |
| Knox Knolls-Camping Fund | <i>3/4 of interest to be used for camping program. 1/4 of interest to be used for Presbytery causes.</i> | \$363,361.58 |
| Walther Fund | <i>To be used for scholarship aid for physically or mentally-challenged youth and/or children in need.</i> | \$25,370.46 |
| Colfax Fund | <i>To be used for church development with interest to be placed in Colfax Fund Money Market.</i> | \$22,152.45 |
| Total of Funds | | \$511,208.86 |

First American Bank

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Pastor Emergency Fund | <i>To be used for short-term loans for pastors.</i> | \$3,850.08 |
| Colfax Fund Money Market | <i>To be used for church development.</i> | \$3,187.03 |
| Easter Lake Money Market | <i>Income from Color My World Childcare Center & Expense to maintain the property & building.</i> | \$62,006.63 |
| Easter Lake Mortgage Money Market | <i>Fund from which monthly mortgage is paid.</i> | \$54,417.77 |
| Easter Lake/Color My World Money Market | <i>Deposit paid when CMW began relationship with church.</i> | \$6,666.26 |
| Montezuma CD | <i>Funds from settlement with church.</i> | \$78,933.97 |
| Total of Funds | | \$209,061.74 |

E – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

February 14, 2015

The Council presents the following items of information to the Presbytery:

- E-I-12 A new task force working with congregations that are dealing with “challenges” has been formed and oriented to its task. The Task Force is now being trained for its important work.
- E-I-13 The Council continues to seek a person to serve as Co-Moderator of the Worship Task Group, as well as persons to serve on the Presbytery Nominating Committee.
- E-I-14 TE Liz Knott has resigned from the Council, Class of 2015. This information has been communicated to the Presbytery Nominating Committee.
- E-I-15 The Council re-elected TE Jim Howland as Moderator and TE Ann Johnson as Vice Moderator for 2015.
- E-I-16 The Council will be holding its annual retreat on Friday, February 20.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Howland, moderator

E-1 – BILLS & OVERTURES TASK GROUP REPORT

February 14, 2015

Amendments to the Constitution Proposed by the 221st General Assembly (2014)

The task group recommends the following actions to the Presbytery:

- Item 14-1 Confession of Belhar
- Item 14A Renunciation of Jurisdiction on Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-05)
- Item 14B Special Committee to Review the Preparation of Ministry Process and Standard Ordination Exams (Item06-12)
- Item 14B.1 Final Assessment on Amending G-2.0607 (Item 06-12, Recommendation 11)
- Item 14B.2 Accommodations on Amending G.20610 (Item 06-12, Recommendation 12)
- Item 14D Minimum Composition of a Presbytery on Amending G.30301, Item 06-06
- Item 14E Interreligious Stance on Amending G-5.0102 (Item 07-02, Recommendation 2)
- Item 14F Marriage on Amending W-4.9000 (Item 10-02)

The Bills & Overtures recommends the following:

Items 14A though 14E - be voted on as an Omnibus motion

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
| | Recommendation | Yes |
| Items 14-1 and 14F - will be considered each separately | | |
| 14-1 | Recommendation | Yes |
| 14F | Recommendation | Yes |

Item 14-1 Belhar Confession will be addressed by TE Ann Johnson who was on the committee dealing with the Belhar Confession and Item 14F will be addressed by RE Ted Coppock was on the Church Orders Committee.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

14-1 Confession of Belhar

Shall the Confession of Belhar be included in the *Book of Confessions*?

Brief Description

You are referred to the complete text of the Confession of Belhar and the accompanying Biblical citations found in the booklet containing all of the proposed amendments to the constitution published by the Office of General Assembly. A synopsis of the background and rationale regarding the Confession of Belhar is found in that booklet as well.

Assembly Action

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Theological Issues and Institutions and CE (13) to approve the proposed amendment was 46/6/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee’s recommendation 551/87/0.

(The complete text of this Confession appears following the section related to Amendment 14-E.)

**Amendment 14-A.
Renunciation of Jurisdiction
on Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-05)**

Brief Description

The amendment seeks to prevent a teaching elder who is in the midst of a formal judicial process from renouncing jurisdiction and then continuing to work or volunteer in the church. There was concern that the church may remain vulnerable due to a lack of information regarding the circumstances and facts of the case.

Assembly Action

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Order Ministry (06) on the proposed amendment was 48/7/2. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation by a vote of 309/297/0.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- When a teaching elder avoids the disciplinary process by renouncing jurisdiction and then is allowed to serve the church, what does that say to his or her victim? Where is the justice, the opportunity for the victim to heal? The church has an obligation to help the victim to heal.
- The disciplinary process is designed to protect all parties involved as it seeks to serve justice and bring the body of Christ back to health. When the accused leaves the process by renouncing jurisdiction, the process cannot work.
- Renunciation is the abandonment of the church. Someone who has abandoned the church should not be able to work for it.

Arguments Supporting a Negative Vote

- When a teaching elder renounces jurisdiction, he or she is no longer a member of the PC(USA) and therefore is not under its jurisdiction. The proposed amendment attempts to extend the church's jurisdiction over someone who is not under its jurisdiction.
- The proposed amendment would inappropriately place a provision of the disciplinary process in the Form of Government instead of the Rules of Discipline where it would more appropriately belong.
- There are times when the accused renounces jurisdiction not because he or she is guilty but because he or she does not want to subject himself, herself, or others to a trial. This proposed amendment has the potential for punishing someone who is not guilty.
- It would be difficult to enforce the proposed amendment, particularly if the former teaching elder relocates.
- The church's Constitution is about the "what" not the "who" or the "how" of process. Policies such as the one described in this proposed amendment should be in a council's manual of operation or personnel policies, not in the church's constitution.
- Councils already have the authority to act as this proposed amendment suggests. Indeed they have the responsibility to take due diligence through background checks of those who work for the congregation whether paid or not.
- The basis for this proposed amendment assumes that the accused is likely to repeat the alleged misbehavior. It may have been a one-time offence.
- The action committed by the accused may after a period of time no longer be contrary to the Constitution.

- This proposed amendment too narrowly and unfairly focuses on teaching elders. What about ruling elders or deacons who renounce jurisdiction during the disciplinary process?

Amendment 14-B
Special Committee to Review the Preparation for Ministry Process
and Standard Ordination Exams (Item 06-12)

Brief Description

The 220th (2012) General Assembly referral: *On Reevaluating the Process by Which Ordination Exams Are Written, Administered, and Graded*, resulted in the formation of a Special Committee. From that Special Committee came these two proposed amendments (Item 06-12, recommendations 11 and 12). Recommendation 11 seeks to distinguish the standard ordination examinations from examination by presbyteries for ordination as well making it clear that candidates are accountable to their presbytery of care. It also makes clear that standard exams are evaluated by written comments but are not graded. Recommendation 12 changes the title of the paragraph to address the perception of some that being an exception is prejudicial in and of itself. The changes intend to clarify that presbytery minutes should include reasons for both waivers and for alternate means of assessment.

14-B.1. Final Assessment
On Amending G-2.0607 (Item 06-12, Recommendation 11)

Assembly Action

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) on the proposed amendment was 54/0/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation 578/41/0.

Arguments in Support of an Affirmative Vote

- This proposal eliminates any specific reference to seminary grades as a consideration for a Committee for the Preparation for Ministry to certify a candidate ready to receive a call.
- It also clarifies that the presbytery approving a candidate's readiness must be the presbytery of care, not the calling presbytery or some other presbytery.

Arguments in Support of a Negative Vote

- None were noted.

14-B.2. Accommodations
On Amending G-2.0610 (Item 06-12, Recommendation 12)

Assembly Action

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity (06) on the proposed amendment was 42/0/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation by voice vote.

Arguments in Support of an Affirmative Vote

- The reporter commented that this proposal, as tweaked by the committee, is mostly word-smithing.

Arguments in Support of a Negative Vote

- None

**Amendment 14-C.
Child Protection Policy
On Amending G-3.0106 (Item 08-14)**

Brief Description

The proposed amendment originated from the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns and would require that all councils of the church adopt and implement a child protection policy.

Assembly Action

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination (08) on the proposed amendment was 69/0/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation by a vote of 554/18/0.

Arguments Supporting an Affirmative Vote

- There was an impassioned speech by an overture advocate and then a sharing by one of the committee members of his own sexual abuse.

Arguments in Support of a Negative Vote

- None

**Amendment 14-D.
Minimum Composition of a Presbytery
On Amending G-3.0301 (Item 06-06)**

Brief Description

The amendment would allow presbyteries comprised of less than ten duly constituted sessions and ten teaching elders to continue to exist upon approval by their synod and the General Assembly. The background and rationale provided by the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon emphasized that the PC(USA) is a denomination of small churches which continue to do good work within their respective communities despite their size. Mission is not dependent upon size.

Assembly Action

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) on the proposed amendment was 57/0/2. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation by a vote of 510/9/0.

Arguments in Support of an Affirmative Vote

- There are places in the United States where there are few PC(USA) congregations in a large geographic area (e.g., Alaska, Eastern Oregon, Idaho). Distances and remoteness present such a challenge that attempting to configure presbyteries with ten or more sessions and ten or more teaching elders is unrealistic.
- Even in those places where there are more than ten sessions, it is often difficult for there to be ten teaching elders.

Arguments in Support of a Negative Vote

- Once the original recommendation was amended to include the phrase "giving consideration to the responsibilities assigned to presbyteries in G-3.01 and G-3.03", no arguments against the proposed amendment were voiced

**Amendment 14-E.
Interreligious Stance
On Amending G-5.0102 (Item 07-02, Recommendation 2)**

Brief Description

The proposed amendment originated from The General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations as part of their recommendation to approve the policy statement, *The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. The amendment updates the language in the current section and adds a sentence regarding the interreligious stance of the PC(USA).

Assembly Action

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Faith Relations on the proposed amendment was 59/4/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation by a hand vote.

Arguments in Support of an Affirmative Vote

- A well-known quote of PC(USA): "To be Presbyterian is to be ecumenical"
- The PC(USA) and its antecedent churches have been at the forefront of local, regional, national, and global ecumenism.
- This is a new statement for the PC(USA) – updating statements from prior ecumenical consultations in the UPCUSA (1981) and the PCUS (1975)
- The statement offers "guidance for how we relate to people of other religious traditions."

Arguments in Support of a Negative Vote

- None

The Confession of Belhar

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Revelation 21:6–7 | We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. |
| Matthew 28:19–20 | We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. |
| Ephesians 2:13–20 | We believe |
| Ephesians 4:11–16, Psalm 133 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; • that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought; one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; • that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; |
| John 17:20–23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; |
| John 13:34 | |

- Colossians 3:12–16 * in that we love one another;
- Philippians 2:1–5 * that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;
- 1 Corinthians 1:10–13 * that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;
- Ephesians 4:1–6 * that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;
- 1 Corinthians 10:16–17 * have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;
- Ephesians 3:18–20 * together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;
- Galatians 6:2 * together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–4 * together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
- 1 Corinthians 12:24b–28, Ephesians 3:14–20 * that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;
- 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, Romans 12:3–8 * that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity;
- Galatians 3:27–29 • that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God;
- that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine

- which absolutizes either natural diversity or the sinful separation of people in such a way that this absolutization hinders or breaks the visible and active unity of the church, or even leads to the establishment of a separate church formation;
- which professes that this spiritual unity is truly being maintained in the bond of peace while believers of the same confession are in effect alienated from one another for the sake of diversity and in despair of reconciliation;
- which denies that a refusal earnestly to pursue this visible unity as a priceless gift is sin;
- which explicitly or implicitly maintains that descent or any other human or social factor should be a consideration in determining membership of the church.

We believe

- 2 Corinthians 5:17–21 • that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;

- Matthew 5:9, 13–16;
2 Peter 3:13;
Revelation 21:1–5
- Romans 6:12–14,
Colossians 1:11–14
- James 2:8–9
- that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;
 - that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;
 - that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;
 - that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.

We believe

- Isaiah 42:1–7
- Luke 6:20–26
- Luke 4:16–19
- Luke 7:22
- Psalms 146
- James 1:27
- Micah 6:8
- Amos 5:14–15, 23–24
- Psalms 82:1–5
- Leviticus 19:15
- that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
 - that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;
 - that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
 - that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
 - that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps the orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
 - that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
 - that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
 - that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
 - that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;
 - that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

Acts 5:29–32;
1 Peter 3:15–18

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

Jesus is Lord.

To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory forever and ever.

**Amendment 14-F.
Marriage
On Amending W-4.9000 (Item 10-02)**

Brief Description

This overture came from the Presbytery of the Cascades with sixteen other presbyteries concurring. The proposed changes to W-4.9000 sets forth the circumstances and conditions under which a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) would be authorized, though not required, to act as an agent of the civil jurisdiction in recording of the marriage contract if the couple wishing to marry meet the requirements of the civil jurisdiction. The session has the authority to permit or deny the use of the church property for a marriage service.

Assembly Action

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Civil Union and Marriage Issues (10) on the proposed amendment was 49/18/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation by a vote of 429/175/0.

Arguments in Support of an Affirmative Vote

- The rationale provided by the Presbytery of the Cascades was reiterated in committee
- The current non-discrimination stance in the Book of Order is not in line with the current policy on marriage
- Young people are accepting
- It gives presbyteries and churches options
- Members of the church are not full members by denying the right to marry

Arguments in Support of a Negative Vote

- The state does what it does; the church only what God blesses
- Scripture above all is firm on marriage between a man and a woman
- In favor, but not sure the time is right to amend the Book of Order
- The change will cause major crisis

Proposed Amendment 14-F

Amend W-4.9000 by striking the current text and replacing it with the following:

“Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love

and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that united the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community.

“In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married coupler in society. In the Reformed traditions, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.

“If they meet the requirements of the civil jurisdiction in which they intend to marry, a couple may request that a service of Christian marriage be conducted by a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is authorized, though not required, to act as an agent of the civil jurisdiction in recording the marriage contract. A couple requesting a service of Christian marriage shall receive instruction from the teaching elder, who may agree to the couple’s request only if, in the judgment of the teaching elder, the couple demonstrate sufficient understanding of the nature of the marriage covenant and commitment to living their lives together according to its values. In making this decision, the teaching elder may seek the counsel of session, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service.

“The marriage service shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to this covenant and to the forms of Reformed worship, under the direction of the teaching elder and the supervision of the session (W1.4004-.4006). In the service of marriage, the couple marry each other by exchanging mutual promises. The teaching elder witnesses the couple/s promises and pronounces God’s blessing upon their union. The community of faith pledges to support the couple in upholding their promises; prayers may be offered for the couple, for the communities that support them, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness.

“A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to a marriage service except that the statements made shall reflect the fact that the couple is already married to one another according to the laws of the civil jurisdiction.

“Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the session’s discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the word of God.”

I – STATED CLERK REPORT

February 14, 2015

The Stated Clerk presents the following items of information to the Presbytery:

- I-I-13 All reports have been filed with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly as of this date. All correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery have been assigned, answered or referred.
- I-I-14 TE Dawn Linder (At Large) has resigned from the Easter Lake Administrative Commission. This information has been communicated to the Presbytery Nominating Committee.

I present the following recommendations to the Presbytery for adoption:

- I-R-8 That the date set for the May Stated Presbytery Meeting, , the third Tuesday in May (May 19), be changed in 2015 to Saturday, June 6.

The meeting would be a joint meeting with the Presbytery of North Central Iowa at their invitation and would be held at the Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames, IA. This meeting would be historic as it would be the first time the two presbyteries have met together, and it will be the 500th Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines. The Moderator of the General Assembly has been invited to join us for this event.

- I-R-9 That the Session Records of the following congregation be approved without exception:

Knoxville, First

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip W. Barrett

J – GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

February 14, 2015

The church isn't perfect. We all know this. After all, it's run by humans, and God knows, as do we, that anything run by humans will not be perfect. Oh, God knows we try to make it near perfect, but we fall short. There are as many opinions as there are people in a church on what needs to be done to make it a better place and members in it better people.

I came across an interesting piece by Tim Cool, who writes a blog entitled, *Cool Conversations*. One of his recent blogs was *If I Could Change One Thing About "Church"*. Here's what he says:

"I was recently leading a workshop for a conference in Texas on Organizational Culture and how it communicates a story. As part of the Q & A time, I was asked a question I have never been asked before. It caught me a little flatfooted, but got my mind racing.

"The question was – *"If you could change one thing in 'church' today, what would it be?"*

"Wow - what a loaded question. I mused while my mind tried to function like Tiahe-2, the world's fastest computer. The bytes were flashing through my head so fast you could almost see smoke coming from my ears. I was processing things like:

- Stop world hunger
- Stop all wars
- Stop injustice
- Stop bickering on Bible Translations
- Elimination of red carpet and purple pews in churches
- The unification of denominations
- etc, etc, etc.

"My thoughts ranged from altruistic to humanitarian to downright outrageous.

"But then it hit me with clarity I have rarely experienced.

"We had just completed a discussion on being contextual...abandoning the unproductive rhetoric of "contemporary vs. traditional". That discussion, about contemporary or traditional, is really a treatise on personal preference...which is actually a form of an "ism"... **"me-ism."**

"That was it!!! That is the one thing I would change if I could. I would eradicate "me-ism".

"According to Wikipedia, **me-ism** is defined as "focused on, or obsession, with oneself." Another website says it is "the error of exaggerating the value of one's own point of view."

"My response became crystal clear and intentional. Whether we are debating guitars and drums vs. an organ, or the KJV vs. the NIV or NLT, or if a steeple is more spiritual than a shopping center sign, or whether we should wear ties vs. flip-flops, it is all me-ism.

These all represent personal preferences. Some based on our past experiences and others based on our current context...but they are about ME!

“Can you imagine what a different church (and world) we would live in if we could abandon our me-ism for “you-ism”, “other-ism”, and “Christ-ism”?”

“Next time you get embroiled in a silly debate about hymnals, pew color, instrumentation, when the offering should be received, tattoos, dress codes and which day to worship, step back and determine if it is merely me-ism.

“Step out and be a **me-ism** killer!

“P.S. This is as much for me as you. Like Paul, I am the greatest of sinners.”

Could we become individuals, families, churches, even a presbytery that covenants to eliminate me-ism from our lives and gatherings? It sure would be fun (and hard) to try.

Since we last gathered, I have been to, or involved in, a variety of places:

- Participated in a conference call of the Synod Personnel Committee (I serve as a staff resource to this committee)
- Along with Joyce Rash, met and oriented the Pastor Nominating Committee of the Heartland Church
- Met with several pastors
- Attended the Annual Christmas Gathering of our Retired Pastors at the home of Bob and Jeanne Burnett
- Attended the Annual Western Area Staff Conference in Burlingame, CA
- Met with a potential donor to the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center
- Oriented the Pastor Nominating Committee at Oskaloosa, First
- Participated in two interviews of potential pastors for one of our congregations
- Along with Betty Dyer, met with leaders, contractor and architect at the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center
- Met with the PNC at the Ankeny Church
- Met with Iowa executive/General Presbyters
- Preached at the Allerton, United and Grimes, First churches
- Along with Sue Tomlinson and Joyce Rash, attended our Synod’s Annual Com/CPM Training Event in Farmington, MN. I led 2 seminars, one with Joyce.
- Met with the Bills and Overtures Task Group

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to know anything about any of these.

As we begin another new year together, I look forward to the many opportunities we will have to be and serve together. I am always grateful for all of you and for the privilege of serving with you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phil Barrett

K – COMPASSION, PEACE & JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT

February 14, 2015

JUST NEIGHBORS AWARD

Do you know of a congregation, small group or church member within our Presbytery engaged in compassion, peace and justice ministry? *Make a nomination for the Just Neighbors Award!* The Compassion, Peace and Justice Task Force would love to recognize your group or an individual doing good work on behalf of others. You may find nomination forms on the Presbytery's website at: <http://dmpresbytery.org/missions/social-justice.html>. Recipients have included a diverse array of programs and people. Each receives a certificate, is recognized and lifted up at a Presbytery meeting, and takes home the traveling banner until the next meeting

RURAL PARTNERSHIP OFFERING

Make a contribution to the Rural Partnership Offering and make it possible for social justice ministry to happen through rural and small town churches in our presbytery, and in agricultural communities around the world.

- One third of the offering supports our Presbytery's partnership with Joining Hands-Egypt, as they seek solutions to the causes of poverty in Egypt.
- One third of the offering supports the Presbytery's partnership in El Salvador, making it possible for our Mission Co-worker Rev. Katherine Pater to coordinate this partnership from La Casa Pastoral in Berlin, Usulután, El Salvador.
- One third of the offering supports programs and projects in rural and small-town Iowa. Particular emphasis has been on lifting up struggling farmers and farming communities, and for agricultural education.

Grant requests are considered throughout the year at meetings of the CPJ Task Force. Applications are welcome and can be downloaded and submitted at any time.

You may download all Rural Partnership Offering info from the Presbytery's website, <http://dmpresbytery.org/missions/social-justice.html>. Please promote the RPO and encourage your congregations to give generously so that, together, we can make a greater impact at home and around the world!

ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS APRIL 17 – 20, 2015

The Annual National Gathering of Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace and Justice are happening once again in Washington, D.C., April 17-20. This year's theme is *Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration & Systems of Exploitation*. Find out more at <http://advocacydays.org/>.

Just prior to the ecumenical event, make sure to attend the Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day on April 17 - a day with Presbyterians who are working locally, nationally and internationally to address issues of incarceration and exploitation. This is a great way to join our ecumenical colleagues for training and a Monday meeting with your members of congress.

Scholarships are available through the CPJ Task Force, contact Michelle at mparsons@westpres.org.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Parsons, moderator

R – PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of the PRESBYTERY (PWP) REPORT

February 14, 2015

Some things to look forward to:

THE SPRING CONNECTION

The Coordinating Team is planning a day of interactive activities in which women will explore difference, change and leadership through the spiritual discipline of hospitality using the PW Resource, *Practicing God's Radical Hospitality*. The day will also include worship, offerings to Hansen House for Women and the Birthday Offering, installation of officers, El Salvador gifts shopping and commissioning of those who will be attending the Churchwide Gathering in June.

Where: First United Presbyterian Church, Winterset, Iowa
 Theme: *One Body, One Spirit*
 When: April 25th - 9 am - 2:15 pm
 Reservations: to Pam Deichmann by April 20, 515-462-4377, or pamdeichmann@gmail.com
 Lunch: \$6.

All ages of women are encouraged to attend this enriching event.

2015 CHURCHWIDE GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Where: Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN (all under one roof!)
 Theme: *One Body, One Spirit*
 When: June 18-21, 2015
 Full registration: \$395 - rooms are \$169 per night (plus tax) for up to four people
 Scholarship money is available from our PW Presbytery: two \$150 scholarships to clergywomen, two \$200 scholarships for Sudanese Women, and seven \$100 scholarships to any woman desiring to attend. Requests for those monies can be made to Angie Williams at rawilliams517@gmail.com or 712-563-2113.

Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for details about the programming, activities and worship opportunities you'll have. It is our Synod of Lakes and Prairies' goal to have 125 women attend this year, as the location is so close. Talk it up with the women of your church. Carpooling would be beneficial, so if you are interested in driving women, please call Moderator Sue Kimball at 515-961-2493 and let her know how many you can take. Registration is open, so start planning your trip now!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- New mission pledges have been submitted for 2015. The total amount is \$6,500. Of this amount, \$4,847.25 goes to PC(USA), \$589.85 goes to Synod, and \$1,062.90 stays in our presbytery.
- Global Mission Exchange – Denise England reported that her Caribbean experience with 24 other PWs from different synods in the US was positive, but she is still trying to process what happened on the trip. She will be available to PWs in our presbytery to share her exchange experience so you may contact her at denisengland@mchsi.com or call 515-401-2769.
- Our Presbytery will also be hosting a woman from one of the Caribbean countries visited on the Exchange for a week prior to the Churchwide Gathering. If you are interested in having her come to your church to speak or participate in your community events in June, call Ann

McGowan at 515-252-6195 or email at akmcgowan@msn.com. The visitor will also need transportation from here to Minnesota on June 17th, the day before the Gathering begins. Our presbytery has been asked to host because we were one of the largest contributors towards the Global Exchange; it will be a nice reciprocation.

- Sharon Falck and Stephanie Cornelder (Oskaloosa, First) received a quilt, the *Blazing Star*, at their recent visit to the Dakota Women. They attended a memorial service for a local woman. There was a big dinner and everyone received a gift; they received a bucket of jams and jellies, Indian cough medicine, and a hand-embroidered dish towel. The quilt will be a fundraiser for the PW of the Dakota Presbytery. Sharon suggested our PWs take turns displaying the quilt at their churches and then send a monetary donation from the PW. The quilted gift will be displayed at the Spring Connection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Kimball, moderator of the Des Moines Presbytery Presbyterian Women-Coordinating Team